

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [00001] on page 1, with the following replacement paragraph:

[00001] This invention relates to a pierce nut installation apparatus which more accurately locates a pierce nut in a panel and prevents cocking of the pierce nut in the plunger passage.

Please replace paragraph [00002] on page 1, with the following replacement paragraph:

[00002] Pierce nuts were invented and commercially developed by the predecessor in interest of the assignee of this application primarily for mass production applications for the automotive and appliance industries. As will be understood by those skilled in this art, a pierce nut includes a projecting pilot portion which punches an opening in a panel and the pierce nut is then installed in the pierced opening by a die member or die button. In a typical application, one die member or die platen, typically the upper die member, includes a pierce nut installation apparatus or head having a reciprocating plunger and the opposed die member includes a die button opposite the plunger of the installation head. A pierce nut is installed in a panel supported on the die button ~~which~~ with each stroke of the die press. There are various types of pierce nuts available from the assignee of this application generally including a central projecting pilot portion which pierces or punches an opening in the panel, a bore through the pilot portion which is generally threaded, flange portions on at least opposed sides of the pilot portion and panel receiving grooves located either in the pilot portion or the end face of the flange portion. Pierce nuts may be formed in a rolling process or by cold heading.

Please replace paragraph [00014] on page 5, with the following replacement paragraph:

[00014] The pierce nut installation apparatus or installation head 20 shown in Figure 1 may be attached to a die member of a die press to receive and install pierce nuts in a panel as described above, wherein the pierce nut installation head is typically attached to the upper die shoe by a base member 22 generally including a back-up plate 24. The disclosed embodiment of the installation head assembly includes a shank 26 which receives a coil shank spring 28 which is compressed between a retainer bolt 30 and the upper die shoe (not shown). Alternatively, the spring 28 may be replaced with pneumatic pressure. The shank includes a vertical slot 32 which receives shank stop pin 34 during installation of a pierce nut as described below. The back-up plate ~~[22]~~ 24 is aligned on the upper die shoe (not shown) by dowel pins 36 providing accurate alignment of the installation head 20 on the die shoe.